

Central Intelligence Agency

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5 Feb 1985

DDI #00636-85

5 February 1985

The Honorable Anne Armstrong
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ambassador Armstrong:

I want to bring you up to date on two recent developments. As I foreshadowed to PFIAB the last time we met, I have organized a panel of outside, well-informed skeptics to review draft Directorate of Intelligence papers on Soviet weapons and military subjects of particular importance. Sey Weiss has agreed to serve as Chairman. Maj Gen Jasper Welch (USAF retired), Admiral Bob Long, and Tom Brown of Rand (Washington office) also have agreed to participate. Tom is a mathematician and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for PA&E (for Strategic Programs). He was a manager of Panheuristics for Harry Rowen and Albert Wohlstetter in the mid 1970s. I believe that having this Panel meet every four to six weeks to review our more important papers on Soviet weapons/military issues and to engage in a dialogue with analysts, asking tough, skeptical questions and challenging assumptions, will serve to improve our work further in this critically important area. I hope that the Panel can begin its work next month. [redacted]

I gave my annual speech in the Agency auditorium to [redacted] analysts and managers late last month and have circulated the text to all others in the Directorate. I enclose a copy of the text for your information and call your attention particularly to the section on "Challenges Unmet," especially those in the substantive area (beginning on page 6). In it I remind our staff of the areas where further improvement is still needed in our work. I also address in some detail the relationship between intelligence officers and policymakers, and concerns about politicized or slanted assessments. [redacted]

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The Honorable Anne Armstrong
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board

As always, there are a number of other things going on --
including several new NIO appointments. I look forward to an
opportunity to bring you and others on PFIAB up to date.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Gates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Gates" clearly distinguishable.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Enclosure:
As Stated

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The Honorable Anne Armstrong
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
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